

Teton County exhibits all of these characteristics, within the county, and in some instances, within very concentrated areas.

**Limited Road Access** is a major issue for all emergency service providers within the County. As population trends and demands for housing increase, some developments exhibit less than adequate turn-around space for emergency vehicles. Some County communities and developments are challenged by steep narrow roadways, while others are served by bridges that have weight restrictions imposed, thereby eliminating various types of fire suppression resources as an option in protecting lives and properties.

**Limited Water Supply** in WUI developments and communities within the County continue to hamper suppression operations in the interface. Wildland areas continue to rely on the natural water sources within the county, but those areas that are co-mingled with private ownership face characteristically inadequate water systems and lack of hydrants. In some areas, fire protection may need to rely more on each landowner's initiative to take preventative measures.

## **6.0 HAZARD PRIORITIZATION, MITIGATION GOALS**

Hazard prioritization and mitigation goals are addressed to meet the stated objectives. These objectives are: protection of life, property and values at risk. With the hazards confirmed, prioritization and goals were developed by the Teton County Wildfire Group. Mitigation actions to address these priorities are:

- 1. Hazard: County Emergency Services Communication and Computer Support.**

The computer systems supporting County emergency services are currently operating at capacity. Emergency response to wildfires and other incidents do not have a common communication link.

*Mitigation Goal:* Update and maintain County emergency services computer servers and software, develop common link for emergency services communication.

- 2. Hazard: County-wide Dispatching and Communications Plan is needed.**

A preplanned coordinated emergency services dispatch system utilizing a 911 center to integrate all emergency services and communications under one centralized system is needed.

*Mitigation goal:* Integrate county-wide 911 dispatching with emergency services computer support, software and communications to be 911 capable. Develop the communication plan.

- 3. Hazard: Communications system and plan does not provide for utilization of Federal cooperators radio frequencies and repeaters.**

To assist in mutual aid and for the protection of fire fighters and residents, county emergency responders have a need to coordinate with federal responders and with

each other when not in “line of sight”. And current handheld radios do not meet updated Federal narrow band requirements.

*Mitigation goal:* Develop cooperative agreements and plan for emergency use of frequencies and repeater systems used by the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Bureau of Land Management and Idaho Department of Lands. Make procurement plan for radios that meet narrow band requirements and are compatible with and passed federal agency field tests.

4. ***Hazard: Prioritization of Countywide Fire Department survey.***

The Teton County Fire Department has accomplished a county wide assessment of needs within the department.

*Mitigation goal:* Prioritize the identified needs within the department with emphasis on training, personal protective equipment, communications, apparatus and infrastructure (fire station upgrades, computer hardware/software etc.)

5. ***Hazard: Defensible space practices at private homes and within developments in areas identified as high and extreme risk needs to be implemented.***

*Mitigation goal:* Provide defensible space information to homeowners and developments. Homeowners and developments implement these guidelines and create defensible space.

6. ***Hazard: Developments, subdivisions and private homes do not have wildfire or other emergency plans available.***

*Mitigation goal:* Development of wildfire and other emergency plans for subdivisions, developments, homes, and businesses within Teton County.

7. ***Hazard: Hazardous wildfire fuel accumulation in high or extreme risk areas and on adjacent Federal or State lands.***

*Mitigation goal:* Reduce wildfire fuel accumulation in and adjacent to high and extreme risk areas, and around communication sites.

8. ***Hazard: Countywide ingress/egress limitations exist on roads, driveways, and approaches constructed prior to the implementation of current County standards.***

*Mitigation goal:* Investigate ways to improve these ingress/egress limitations through developments, homeowners, private and public grants.